CHAPTER 18 - MEMORY OF THE PAST

# ACTION MASK

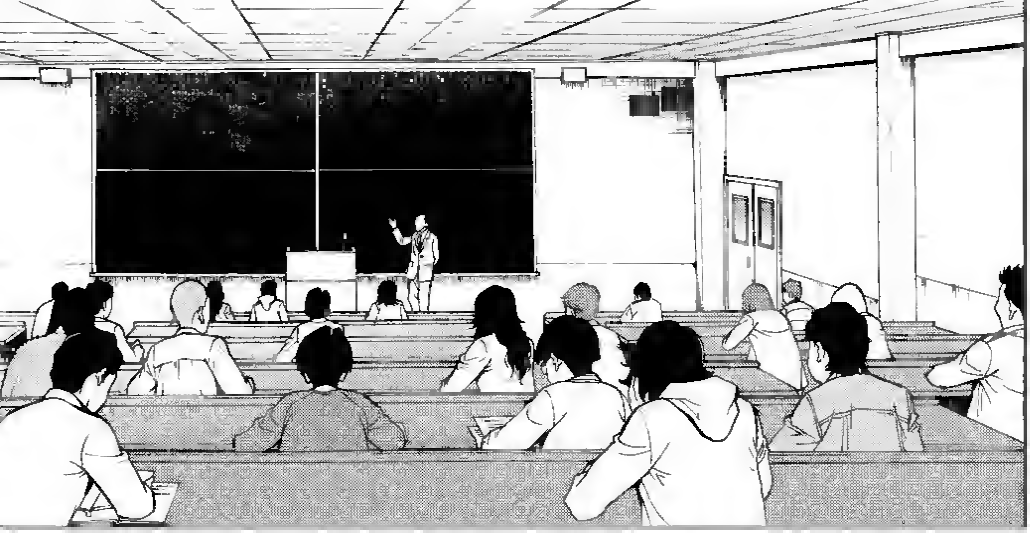
*HIS FIST BREAKS ONLY THE MIND OF HATE.*

ORIGINAL CHARACTERS: YOSHITO USUI MANGA: DATTO NISHIWAKI
STORY: PROJECT ACTION MASK

ゴオオオオオオオオ
!
MOTHER...?

THIS IS YOUR MEMORY.
...!
THIS IS AS FAR AS I CAN HELP YOU.
PAL...!
YOU MUST FIND THE DOOR TO YOUR CLOSED-OFF HEART, WITH YOUR OWN STRENGTH.
WITH MY OWN STRENGTH
UGH
THROB
WSSHH...

SIGN: ENTRANCE EXAM QUALIFIERS



SNEAK...

SLIDE...

!
CRAP
FORGOT MY PEN CASE...!

PHEW..

コロ
ROLL

GIGGLE
クス
GO AHEAD!
ROLLLLL...
コロ
AH...
THANKS

HEY, THIS..
I COULDN'T RETURN YOUR PEN EARLIER.
AHH.
THANK YOU.
ニコ!!
SMILE
UMMM. COULD THAT GUY EARLIER BE YOUR..?
HM?
HE'S MY OLDER BROTHER. WHAT ABOUT IT?
OH.. YOU'RE SIBLINGS
THANK-
GASP!

HEH HEH...
UHH...!
NO, IT'S NOTHING.
AH HA HA...
NICE TO MEET YOU. I'M SAORI MATSUZAKA.

LOOK.
I PUT YOUR PHOTO IN.
SAORI.
LET'S GET MARRIED.
トゥ トゥ トゥ...
WSSHHHH...
JINGLE
チャリ
FLASH
BUZZZZZZ...

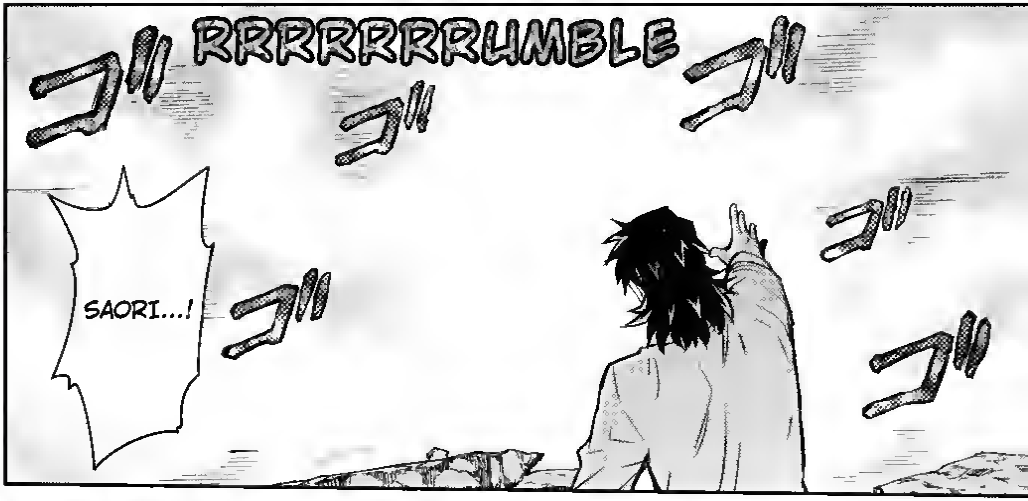
ゴオオオ
WHOOOOOM
...?!
GOU!
HANG IN THERE, GOU!

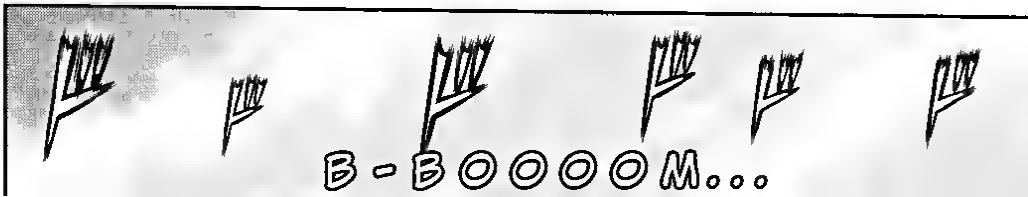
GOU!
B-B-B-BOOOM
HELP! HELP ME PLEASE!
NOOOO!
THUDDD
AHH!!
CRUMBLE

NO!
I CAN'T LEAVE YOU HERE!
IT'S DANGEROUS HERE, SO RUN!
I'M ALL RIGHT!
SAORI...!
I'VE ALWAYS BEEN PROTECTED BY YOUR STRENGTH.
I'VE ALWAYS BEEN HELPED BY YOUR KINDNESS AND COMPASSION.
THOOM K-BOOM
THAT'S WHY THIS TIME I'M GOING TO HELP...

...!
BOOOOM

SAORI!


RRRRRRRRUMBLE
SAORI...!

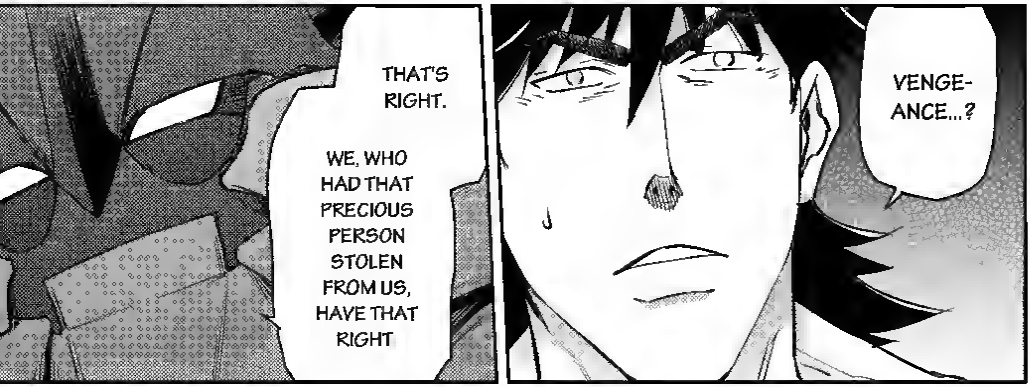

B-BOOOOM...

AAAH...
SAORI-IIII!!
AAAAAA-AAAAAAH!
BA-
DLIM...

WHA...?!
UGH...
MATSU-ZAKA-SAN...?
UUOOO-AAAAAAA-HHHHGH!!

I HATE THEM ALL!
I HATE THEM...
WHAT THE HELL IS THIS...?
シュウウ...
HISSSSS...
SHE WAS KILLED.
MY SISTER IS DEAD.
.....
YOU'RE SAORI'S LOVER?

WHAT WILL YOU DO?
I'LL HAVE MY VENGEANCE ON THEM.


THAT'S RIGHT.
WE, WHO HAD THAT PRECIOUS PERSON STOLEN FROM US, HAVE THAT RIGHT
VENGE-ANCE...?

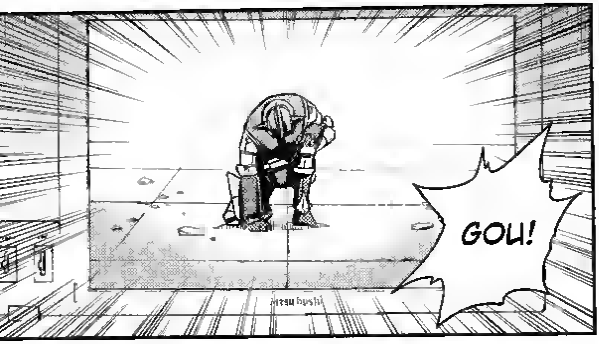
REGARDLESS OF THAT, EVEN IF THE WORLD LOSES HER, THOSE SCUM CAN JUST GO ON LIVING THEIR LIVES, AND I HATE THEM ALL!
IT'S NOT GOING TO STOP AT THE CRIMINAL WHO BROUGHT ON THIS WRETCHED SITUATION.
THE HUMANS SIMPLY LET HER DIE!
DON'T YOU THINK SO TOO?! GOU!!

SAORI'S DEATH IS... TRIVIAL...
TO THOSE BASTARDS, SAORI'S DEATH IS NOTHING MORE THAN SOME STRANGER'S TRAGEDY.
AN UTTERLY TRIVIAL MATTER.
THERE ARE HUMANS WHO EAT, LAUGH WITH THEIR FRIENDS, AND SLEEP WITH THEIR LOVERS, JUST AS THEY'VE BEEN DOING UP UNTIL NOW.
DOESN'T THAT MAKE YOU BURN?!
DOESN'T THAT MAKE YOU WANT REVENGE AGAINST THEM?!
ALL PEOPLE WILL EVENTUALLY FORGET ABOUT HER, AND THEY ALONE WILL BECOME HAPPY.
IN THE END, ALL PEOPLE ARE JUST ANIMALS WHO ONLY CARE FOR THEMSELVES!
I'M JUST A POWERLESS MAN, WHO COULDN'T EVEN PROTECT THE ONE PERSON HE LOVED.
WHAT CAN I DO...
...BUT I CAN'T DO THAT.
GRIT...

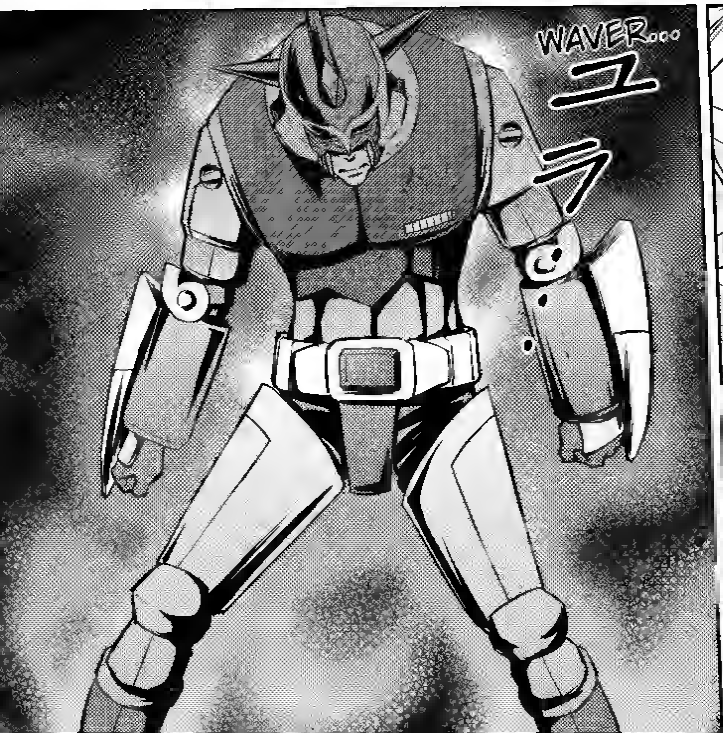
GLEAM
...!!
SHLURP...
UAAAAA-HGH!!
YOU ARE NOW NO LONGER POWER-LESS.
YOU ARE NOW JUST LIKE ME-A CONNECTOR OF HATE
MAKE MORE COMRADES IN THIS EVIL, FRAUD-RIDDLED WORLD WITH ME, BROTHER!

CONNECTOR OF HATE...
CR
ACK
I HATE THEM.
I HATE THEM.
I HATE THEM...!!

TWITCH
ピク


GOU!

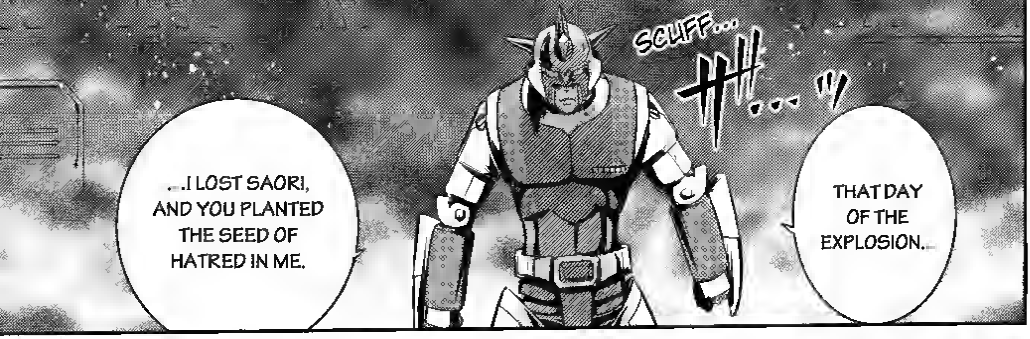
!

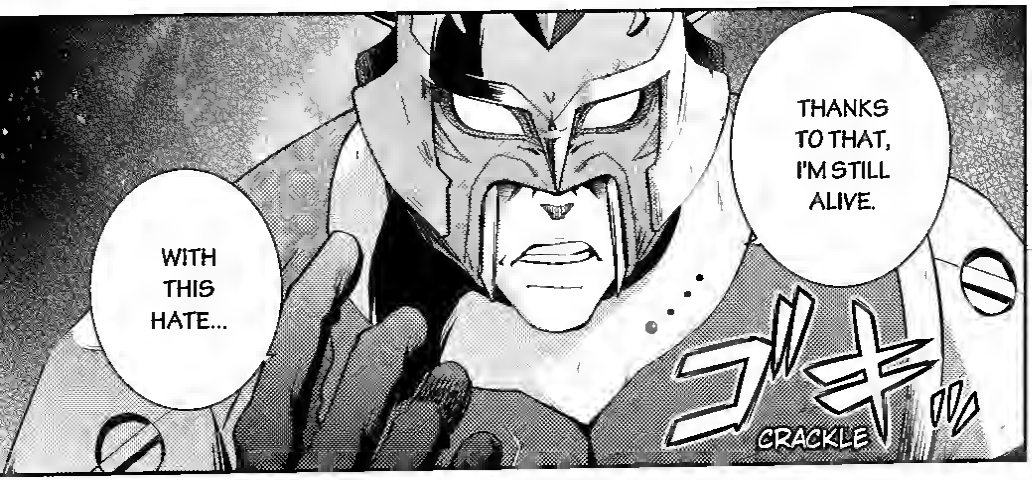

WAVER...
ユラ

THANK GOD, HE'S OKAY!

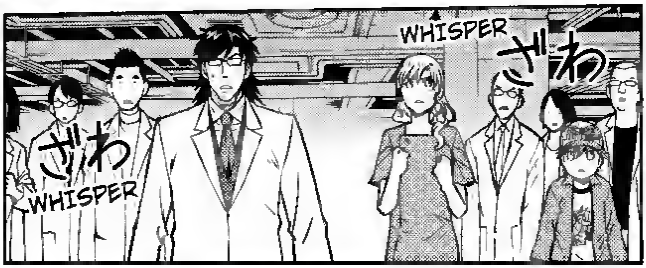
...

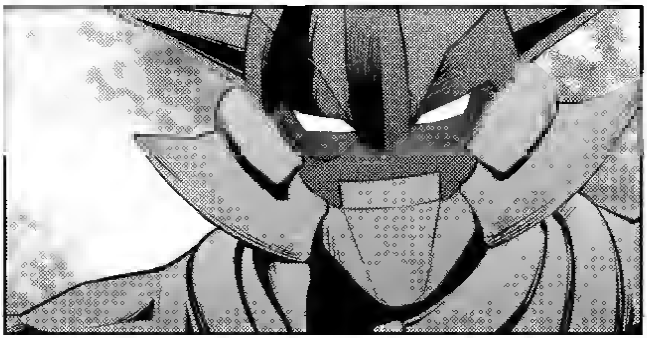
GOU...?
NO. WAS HE SWALLOWED BY HATE?
STOP IT! THERE'S NO WAY HE'D BE-!
GLOOM
GOU...?
I REMEMBERED. MY TRUE HATRED.
...
-HEH
TURN
.....


SCUFF...
...I LOST SAORI, AND YOU PLANTED THE SEED OF HATRED IN ME.
THAT DAY OF THE EXPLOSION...


THANKS TO THAT, I'M STILL ALIVE.
WITH THIS HATE...
CRACKLE

GRIP
HOWEVER...


WHISPER
WHISPER



PLIN
CHH
!
EVEN WITH MY MEMORIES BACK, I WON'T BECOME A CONNECTOR OF HATE!

THANKS FOR BELIEVIN' IN ME, MISATO!
YEAH, I
I WAS FOOLISH FOR FEARING I'D BE TRAPPED BY HATE.
BUT NOW I'M OKAY.
YOU BAS-TARD!
THAT MY COMPASSION WAS MY STRENGTH.
SHE SAID SHE WAS SAVED BY MY KINDNESS.
...IF I REALLY LOVED SAORI, I SHOULD'VE REMEMBERED HER WORDS MUCH EARLIER.
MATSU-ZAKA-SAN... I REMEMBER IT ALL.
FOR HER SAKE, THERE'S SOMETHING I MUST DO.
AND THAT IS TO SAVE YOU!

DON'T GET COCKY, LITTLE BRAT!
SLA
MM
YOU, SAVE ME?
WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?
YOU FIGURED IF YOU GOT YOUR MEMORIES BACK, I'D FORGIVE YOU?
I'M NOT SAYING I WANT YOUR FORGIVE-NESS!

SILENCE!
SLAM
CLENCH
CLENCH
I'M JUST SAYING THAT THIS ISN'T WHAT SAORI WANTS!
KRRRRK
KRRRRK
KRRRRK
KRRRRK
SHE'S THE KIND OF WOMAN WHO'D BE HAPPIER THAT YOU, ME, AND OTHER PEOPLE WERE SAVED... RATHER THAN WORRY ABOUT THE FEAR AND SORROW OVER HER OWN DEATH.
MATSU-ZAKA-SAN
SAORI CARED ABOUT OTHERS MORE THAN HERSELF... ISN'T THAT RIGHT?
SHIFT...
YOU KNOW THIS BETTER THAN ANYONE!
SHE'D NEVER WANT TO HATE THOSE PEOPLE WHO WOULDN'T SAVE HER!
PUSH

...YOU'VE GOT THE WRONG IDEA HERE.
I HAVEN'T BEEN DOING WHAT SAORI WISHES FROM THE VERY BEGINNING!
CHARGE
THIS IS ALL... WHAT I WANT!
...!!
CLANG
WHAT I HATE IS ALL HUMANS WHO LET HER DIE!
THE PEOPLE WHO TRULY MUST LIVE ARE DEAD, AND ONLY THE DEADBEATS KEEP LIVING!
I'M HATING FROM MYSELF, AND WANTING IT ALL FROM MYSELF!
FOR THE WORLD TO BE SWALLOWED UP IN HATE!
CLANG
CLANG

THE REASON BEHIND YOUR HATE ISN'T SUPPOSED TO BE THAT!
YOU'RE WRONG!
I HATE A WORLD THAT DOES NOT WANT SAORI IN IT!
YOU'RE TOTALLY WRONG!
I HATE A WORLD WITHOUT SAORI IN IT!
YOU'RE WRONG!
I'M SAYING THIS IS MY HATE!
WHAT ELSE COULD THERE BE?!
CUT THE CRAP!
GRABB
WHAT THE HELL DO YOU KNOW ABOUT ME?!

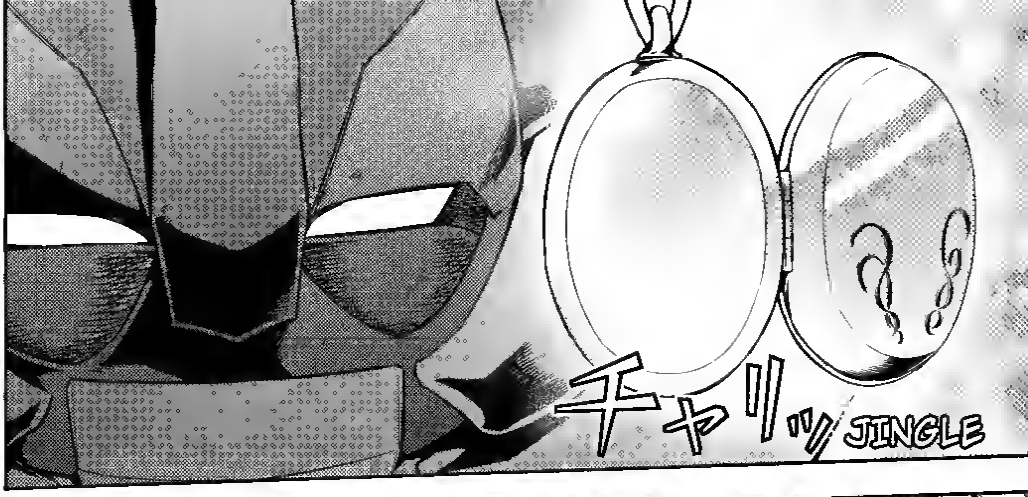
I GET IT, NOW
WHAT THE SOURCE OF YOUR HATRED IS!
I UNDER-STAND IT.
...ONLY I UNDER-STAND IT!

YOU'RE LITTERLY RIGHT!!
THAT'S WHY I NEEDED TO RECOVER MY MEMORIES.

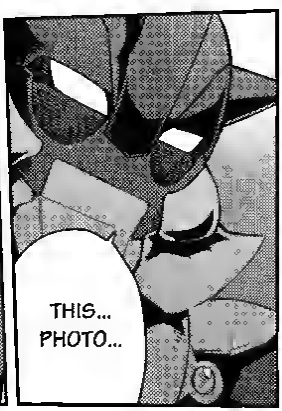
YOU SAID IT YOURSELF
YOU AND I ARE THE SAME!

AND I UNDER-STOOD.
THE PERSON I... AND YOU, HATED MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE... IS OURSELVES, SINCE WE'RE THE ONES WHO COULD DO NOTHING TO SAVE SAORI!

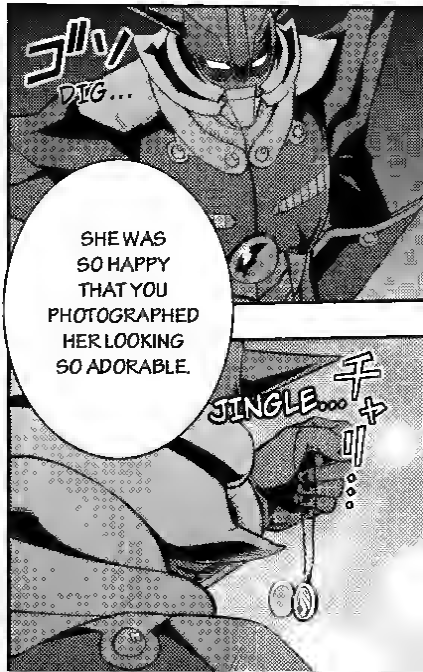
THAT'S WHAT YOUR TRUE HATRED IS!
...!!
SHIFT...
I HATED HOW I WAS SO HELPLESS.
MATSUZAKA-SAN, YOU SHOULD BE THE SAME
.....
WHY COULDN'T I PROTECT SAORI?
SHE WAS THE ONLY ONE I WAS SUPPOSED TO PROTECT


チャリン JINGLE

SAORI SAID THAT NOW WE ARE ALWAYS TOGETHER...
THIS WAS FROM SAORI.
YOU TOOK THIS PICTURE ON HER BIRTHDAY.


THIS... PHOTO...

AND SHE SAID .. THAT IT'S BECAUSE SHE LOVES HER BROTHER.

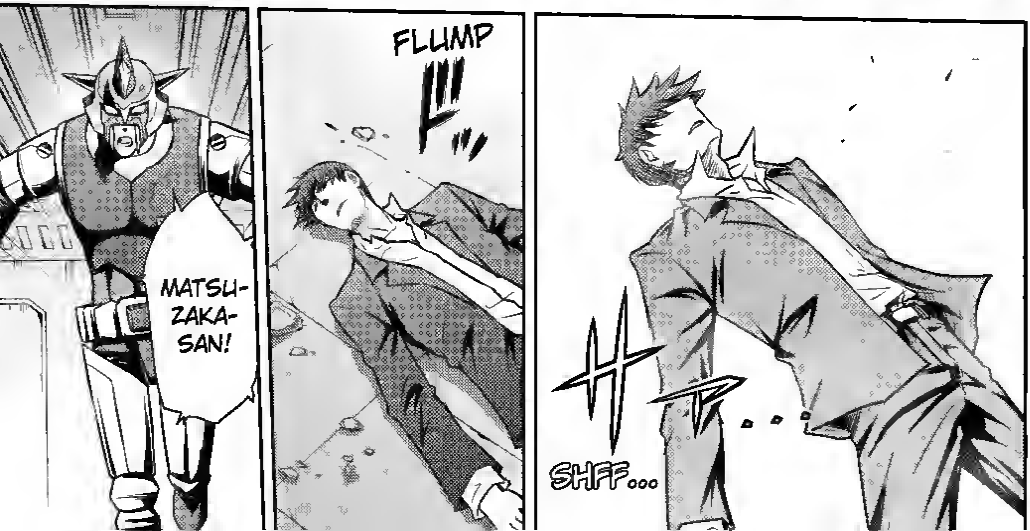

ゴソ DIG...
SHE WAS SO HAPPY THAT YOU PHOTOGRAPHED HER LOOKING SO ADORABLE.
JINGLE... チャリ...

SAORI...!!
SPARRRRK
I SEE IT...!
FLASH
FLASH

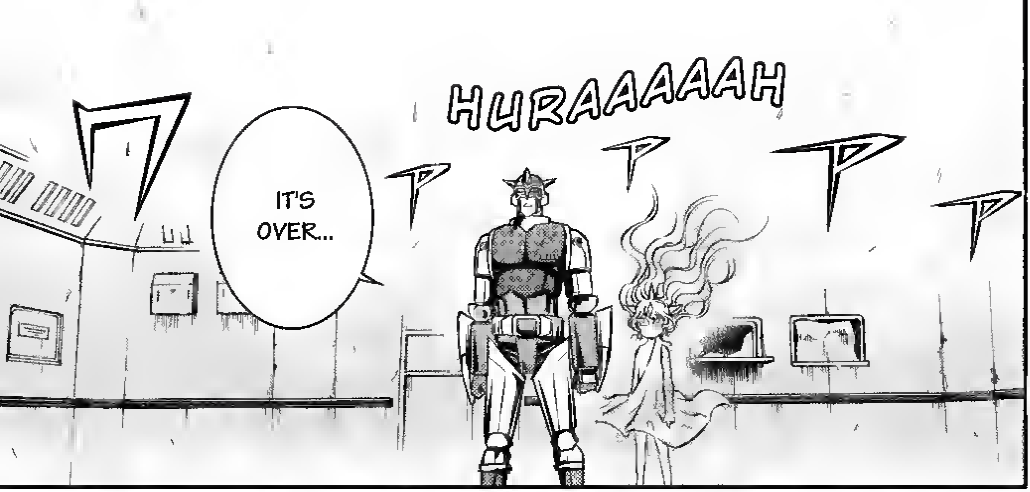
...IS TO DENY SAORI'S VERY OWN FEELINGS.
TO DENY OURSELVES, WHO SAORI LOVED SO MUCH...
.....
AND LET US ALWAYS EMBRACE HER LOVE.
LET US CONTINUE REGRETTING THAT YOU AND I COULD NOT PROTECT HER.
WAS I THE ONE IN THE WRONG...?
SAORI...

OKAY...!
...GOU.

ACTION BEEEEEAM!


MATSU-ZAKA-SAN!
FLUMP
SHFF...

THEN JUST ATONE FOR IT FROM HERE ON OUT.
YOU ARE STILL ALIVE, AFTER ALL.
SO YOU PURIFIED MY SEED.
BUT THE SIN OF HURTING SO MANY INNOCENT PEOPLE CAN'T DISAPPEAR.
SIGH...
THANK GOD
WOW, MIMI-SAN'S CRYING!
DO YOU NEED A HANKIE?
NO, I'M OKAY.
I'M JUST SO RELIEVED, TEARS STARTED POURING OUT.
YESSS!
YEAH

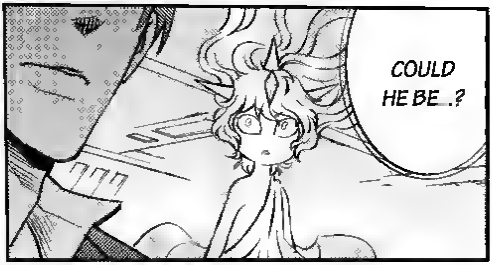

HURAAAAAH
IT'S OVER...

THERE'S SOMETHING YOU DON'T KNOW.

!

NO... NOT YET.

GOU ..
JUST LIKE YOU, THERE WAS A HIGH-DIMENSION LIFE-FORM FUSED TO ME.


COULD HE BE..?

.. WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

DURING THAT PURIFICATION, I FELT THAT LIFE-FORM SEPARATE FROM ME.
A BEING WHO FEEDS OFF HATE TO LIVE, THE RINGLEADER BEHIND A SERIES OF CALAMITIES.
ITS NAME IS THE "EMPEROR."

SHWOOM
RIGHT NOW, IT MUST BE-

THUD
...!!

MATSU-
ZAKA-
SAN!
!!
ミュウウ…
SHUUU...
HUP..
WE GO.
SERIOUSLY,
THIS IS WHY
I HATE THE
ELDERLY.
THE
JOINTS AND
EVERYTHING
ARE WORN
OUT.
NOW,
THEN.

I'M SURE THIS IS OUR FIRST TIME MEETING MR. ACTION MASK.
I AM THE EMPEROR.
AN EVEN MORE POWERFUL ENEMY?!